

CARVER COUNTY COURTS

APR 27 2016

PLSD

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF CARVER

DISTRICT COURT

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number Not Applicable

***In Re* Search Warrant Pertaining to
7801 Audubon Road, Chanhassen
Carver County, Minnesota, also known
as Paisley Park Studios.**

**DISTRICT COURT ORDER SEALING SEARCH
WARRANT PURSUANT TO MINN. R. CRIM. PRO 33.04**

The undersigned has reviewed the *ex parte* motion of Mark Metz, Carver County Attorney, for a District Court Order sealing the above-named search warrant and all accompanying documents because disclosure of said documents could create a substantial risk of a search or a related search to become unsuccessful or severely hamper an ongoing investigation.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1) The Carver County Sheriff is conducting a lawful investigation into circumstances surrounding the sudden death of Prince Rogers Nelson, aged 57, the musical superstar known better simply as Prince.

2) There is unrelenting, world-wide media coverage on the circumstances surrounding the death of Prince.

3) Until this investigation is complete, criminal charges are brought (if any) or barring further order of the court, data collected in the course of this death investigation is classified as confidential under Minnesota Law.

4) This Court finds reasonable grounds exist to believe that making this search warrant public could create a substantial risk of a search or a related search to become unsuccessful or severely hamper an ongoing investigation.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

This Court must issue an Order sealing this search warrant since through its *ex parte* motion; the Carver County Attorney's Office has met its legal burden set forth in Minn. Crim. Pro. 33.04(d), thereby relieving the government of having to comply with the ordinary search warrant filing requirements as set forth in Minn. Stat. §626.15 and §626.17

ORDERS

1) That the above-referenced search warrant and all accompanying documents shall not be filed as a public document within ten days of its execution to the Carver County Court Administrator's Office.

2) In lieu of filing as a public document, the search warrant and all accompanying documents shall instead be kept securely under lock and seal under the

direction of the Carver County Court Administrator until commencement of criminal proceedings or 180 days from the date of this order, whichever occurs first.

3) That the *ex parte* motion of Carver County Attorney Mark Metz and this Order Sealing Search Warrant shall also be kept securely under lock and seal with the original search warrant and accompanying documents under the direction of the Carver County Court Administrator until commencement of criminal proceedings or 180 days from the date of this order, whichever occurs first.

4) Any applicable E-Filing requirements are hereby waived and no data entry into MNCIS or other similar computer database shall be made.

Dated this 27 day of April, 2016



Judge of District Court

FILED

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***In Re Search Warrant Pertaining to
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**PROSECUTOR'S REQUEST TO SEAL SEARCH
WARRANT PURSUANT TO MINN. R. CRIM. PRO. 33.04(d)**

PROSECUTOR'S EX PARTE REQUEST

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz requests that the above-entitled Application for Search Warrant, Search Warrant, Supporting Affidavit[s], Inventory and Receipt not be filed with the District Court within ten days of the warrant's execution as normally required by Minn. Stat. §626.15 (Execution and Return of Warrant; Time) and Minn. Stat. §626.17 (Return and Inventory).

County Attorney Metz requests that this warrant and accompanying documents instead be sealed pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure 33.04(d)(2016).

Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 33.04(d) provides that an order sealing a search warrant and accompanying documents must be issued granting the prosecutor's request if, based on a statement signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to Minn. Stat.

§ 358.116, the Court finds reasonable grounds exist to believe that making the search warrant and related documents may cause the search or a related search to be unsuccessful, create a substantial risk of injury to an innocent person, or severely hamper an ongoing investigation.

The specific reasons for this request to seal the search warrant and accompanying documents are as follows:

1) Prince Rogers Nelson, aged 57, known better simply as Prince, suddenly died April 21, 2016, at his residence known as Paisley Park, 7801 Audubon Road, Chanhassen, Carver County, Minnesota.

2) An autopsy was subsequently conducted by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in Ramsey, Minnesota. However, the results of that autopsy and related toxicological findings will not become final for several weeks or months. Hence, both the cause and manner of death remain unresolved.

3) In conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, the Carver County Sheriff's Office is conducting an active law enforcement investigation into the cause and manner of Prince's death. Beyond public law enforcement data already disclosed, other data collected as part of this active and on-going death investigation constitutes *confidential data* as classified by Minn. Stat. Stat. §13.82, Subd. 7 (criminal investigative data); Minn. Stat. §13.39 (civil investigative data); Minn. Stat. §13.384 (medical data); Minn. Stat. § 13.83 (medical examiner data).

4) Upon information and belief, Prince was and currently remains one of the best-selling iconic pop musicians of all time.

5) There will likely remain intense media scrutiny upon the manner and circumstances of Prince's death for the foreseeable future, particularly since the popular media has now reported prescription opiate use by Prince. In addition, the Carver County Sheriff's Office has received information that such prescription opiates may have been provided to Prince by a third party or parties; that Prince was going through withdrawal symptoms; that Prince was about to meet with medical professionals to deal with his alleged abuse of prescription medications.

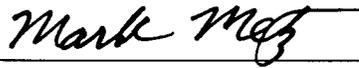
6) Unlike any other prior death investigation in Carver County, never has there been such a demand from the press for on-going information about a death investigation, including calls from the *New York Times* and other national media outlets to the both the Carver County Attorney's Office and the Carver County Sheriff's Office.

7) Premature disclosure of data contained in this search warrant and the fruits of its search could cause potential suspects to flee; result in potential evidence being altered or destroyed; potentially provide an incentive for collusion of testimony between potential co-conspirators; give effective notice such that other suspects are on notice of a potential investigation, surveillance or search; may motivate witness tampering schemes; may compromise potential witness statements if media representatives interview witnesses before law enforcement investigators.

8) Therefore, public filing of this search warrant within ten days of its execution could create a substantial risk of a search or a related search to become unsuccessful or severely hamper an ongoing investigation.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §358.116, I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2018 in Carver County, Minnesota.



Mark Metz
Carver County Attorney
Carver County Justice Center
604 East Fourth Street
Chaska, Minnesota

FILED

APR 28 2016

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF CARVER

CARVER COUNTY COURTS

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In Re Search Warrant Pertaining to
7801 Audubon Road, Chanhassen
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as Paisley Park Studios.

**PROSECUTOR'S MOTION TO SEAL
SEARCH WARRANT PURSUANT TO
MINN. R. CRIM. PRO. 33.04(d)**

The undersigned prosecutor requests this search warrant and
accompanying documents be sealed until commencement of any criminal
proceedings or 180 days, whichever occurs first.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK METZ
CARVER COUNTY ATTORNEY

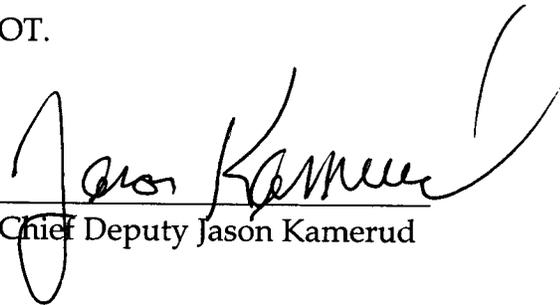
By: _____


Peter Ivy (0180956)
Chief Deputy Carver County Attorney
Carver County Attorney's Office
604 East Fourth Street
Chaska, Minnesota 55318
(952) 361-1403

Dated: April 28, 2016

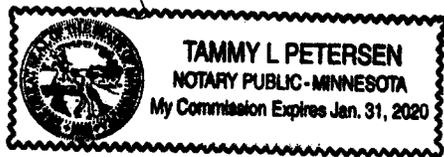
compromise this law enforcement investigation by causing the search or related searches to be unsuccessful, create a substantial risk of injury to an innocent person (s), or severely hamper this ongoing investigation.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Chief Deputy Jason Kamerud

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 28th day of April 2016.


Notary Public



#58

FILED

STATE OF MINNESOTA

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FINDINGS AND ORDER

FINDINGS

The Court finds that public release of the search warrant and its accompanying documents could compromise this law enforcement investigation by causing the search or related searches to be unsuccessful, create a substantial risk of injury to an innocent person (s), or severely hamper this ongoing investigation.

ORDERS

1) That the above-referenced search warrant and all accompanying documents shall not be filed as a public documents within ten days of its execution to the Carver County Court Administrator's Office.

2) In lieu of filing as a public document, the search warrant and all accompanying documents shall instead be kept securely under lock and seal under the direction of the Carver County Court Administrator until

commencement of criminal proceedings or 180 days from the date of this Order, whichever occurs first.



Eric Braaten
Judge of District Court

Dated: April 28, 2016